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Musket

Vol. XXX, No. 6 Lexington High School, Lexington, Mass. March/April 1997

Despite the April Fool's Day snowstorm, spring is in full bloom at LHS.

-photo by Dan Myung

Increased Enforcement of LHS Parking Bill Policies

by Ram Gowda

In response to widespread incidents of illegal student parking, LHS Principal Philip Lanoue announced the immediate use of stiff penalties in an effort to deter future violations of school parking policy.

Last fall, the Senate initiated a parking policy which guaranteed each faculty and staff member a parking space and allocated the remaining slots to seniors chosen by lottery. The bill allowed an excess of up to 30% more student parking stickers than spaces available to be issued.

Lanoue's enforcement policy involves the four-week suspension of open campus privileges for students found parking in faculty spaces or those parking without a sticker. Repeat offenders will be permanently banned from parking in any school lot.

Further infringements will be met with harsher disciplinary measures, including the towing the vehicle at the owner's expense. Students are still liable to town parking laws, and police will continue to write tickets for illegally parked vehicles near and on campus.

Although Lanoue regretted the need "to go to this extreme," he explained that "faculty cannot find parking spaces and students with stickers cannot find spaces to park...[s]tudents who park illegally are not following school rules," in a school-wide memorandum. Lanoue commented, "I just wish everyone would park where they're supposed to. I am not aspiring to be the parking commissioner for the state of Massachusetts." Student parking is still limited to unmarked spaces behind G and H house and "S" marked slots located next to DEF buildings.

"I just wish everyone would park where they're supposed to. I am not aspiring to be the parking commissioner for the state of Massachusetts."

-Principal Philip Lanoue

All students are required to have parking stickers to park in school lots. The parking sticker lottery took place last fall.

Both faculty and seniors with legitimate stickers have increasingly found their respective lots filled with illegally parked cars. The relatively small number of seniors allowed to park on campus has escalated the competition among students vying for spaces enough to motivate the theft of parking permit stickers. Several seniors have reported stolen permit stickers. Many believe that the stealing of stickers constituted an additional justification for the increased enforcement, although the intensified penalties do not directly address the theft of parking stickers. Several students have complained about these recent crimes, saying that they underscore the seriousness of the parking problem at LHS.

Student opinion concerning the fairness of the Senate Parking Bill varied. Those with parking stickers agreed that there has been a significant reduction in parking lot congestion on campus. Others rankled in their inability to obtain

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Inside

SCIENCE FAIR A SUCCESS

Want to know who were the big winners in the science fair, and what comes next? *Page 3.*

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NAMES AND PLACES

The *Musket* wants to know what you're doing next year. *Page 6.*

GIRLS' LAX UNDEFEATED

So far, girls' lacrosse is 4-0. Can it stay undefeated? *Page 8.*

Science Team Off to UNC

by Christine Chiou

On March 22, the LHS Science Olympiad team marched into the state event at Framingham State as the defending state champions; their departure marked history, as they emerged as the first team ever to claim consecutive state titles. The team will head to Chapel Hill, North Carolina, to compete in the National Competition.

The 1997 team demolished the competition, as they beat their closest competitor, rival

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Senior English Classes Unleveled

by Eun-Young Choi

Senior English courses will no longer be Honors, Level 1, or Level 2. In the calculation of weighted GPAs, they will be considered unleveled courses.

According to Department Head Scott Weber, the LHS English Department has found that seniors tend to choose courses because of particular interests or teachers, not because of the levels assigned to the class. "There is always a big drop off in students enrolling in honors English classes between junior and senior year," says Weber. "Usually, for junior year, we have around seven classes at the honors level, and usually no more than two honors classes for senior year."

Course descriptions were rewritten to better describe the content and workload of these classes. Weber further commented, "To ensure that students could adequately choose appropriate courses, the Department was inspired to rewrite the descriptions for senior electives, so that they were more specific and could give seniors a better idea of what a course has to offer."

The English Department has also increased the number of senior electives. To accommodate the growing demand for courses such as Modern Literature, the English Department has created a new course, Contemporary Literature, which focuses on literature written within the past 30 years. In addition, current senior electives will be offered again in the upcoming fall. However, honors Western Traditions was cancelled due to low enrollment.

The new policy has strong support from faculty and students. English teacher Kevin Murray said, "I support interest in course matter for seniors, because it allows more choices for students." Junior Jennie Choi concurs, stating that "it is better to choose courses based on curriculum, and I think that is what students what to do. Elimination of leveling gets rid of the constraints students feel in choosing courses."

Junior Jessica Kaplan supports the policy because it will eliminate weighted GPAs. "It bothers me when students take classes purely to get Honors credit," she said. Classmate Caitlin Rollins agrees: "[W]hen students take classes for their GPAs, it shows that they care less about what they are learning than about the grade on their report cards."

"If the English Department wants to try out unleveled courses, senior year is a good year to try it," says English teacher Paul Steele. "Sophomore and junior years are years for students to test themselves, to get ready for college, and to establish what they can do."

However, some feel that the new policy of unleveling may result in heterogeneous classes. "I support leveling," says junior Oliver Sellers-Garcia. "It isn't an issue of intelligence. I feel that if a class, as a result of unleveling, becomes heterogenous, then the class will suffer from different work ethics, and it will be harder for students to accomplish what they want from a course...the problem now is that leveling isn't strict enough."

Senior Christine Chiou concurs. "It's possible that students who want to take honors courses will find themselves in classes with students of different abilities and work ethics. Ideally, though, the course descriptions should ensure that students choose the appropriate courses for themselves. They should have an idea of how much work is involved and what will be expected of them."

French Club president Nick Vargelis prepares for Cabaret. Story, p.6.

Mechem Temp Administrator

by Dan McFadden

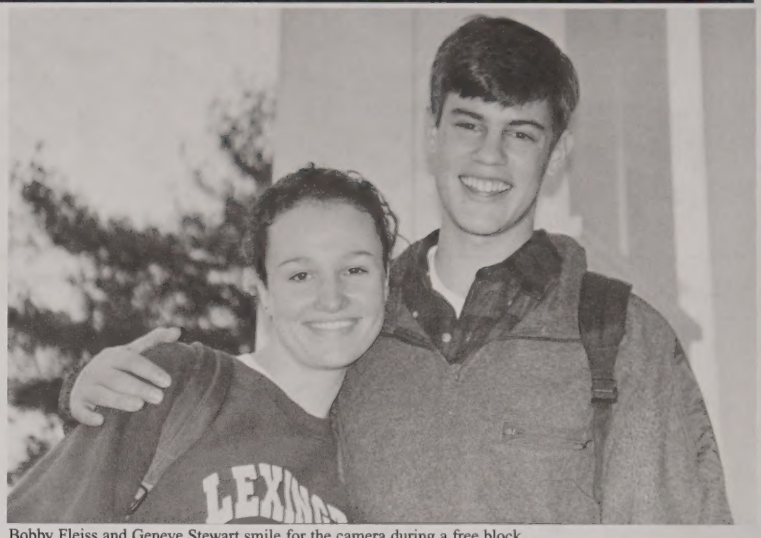
English teacher George Mechem has temporarily taken over F-House Building Administrator Paul Brown's duties. Mechem plans to return to teaching in the fall. He describes his present role as "interim" building administrator, providing his services while Brown is on medical leave.

Mechem first began to consider the position of building administrator when he was notified that Brown needed heart surgery. Brown would continue performing some administrative duties, but he would need to lighten his very active schedule for an effective convalescence. Although Mechem felt "a lot of reservation about leaving classes" midyear, he decided that the administrator's job was "something I wanted to try."

Brown now works on graduation requirements and scheduling issues, while Mechem pays disciplinary visits to students. Mechem sees himself as one half of an effective team that "meets a need to keep the school running smoothly," with Brown as an administrator and himself as a "chase guy." Reasons for disciplinary visits include unexcused absences, skipped study halls, or rudeness to faculty or other students.

Mechem finds that most of the people he deals with are "honest and cooperative," but nonetheless, his job is unpredictable. A fight demanding immediate attention may arise. "There are always little flare-ups," says Mechem, "that make it impossible to plan my day."

The greatest "keys to his success," comments Mechem, are the "human resources" around him. He describes Brown as a "great reserve of information who has been sharing his experience and expertise" with Mechem to ease the transition from teacher to administrator. F-house secretary Mrs. Leslie has also been "terrific," according to Mechem, and had "kept operations running smoothly for a month almost entirely on her own." With such assistance, Mechem feels "confident" that he can "stay on top of the job of administrator" through the end of the school year.



Bobby Fleiss and Geneve Stewart smile for the camera during a free block.

-photo by Carl Tortola

Senate Discusses Possible Changes in Open Campus

by Ami Karkar and Claire Cuno

At a recent Senate meeting, LHS senators discussed the future of open campus. Possible changes include increasing the minimum GPA prerequisite, requiring 30 hours of community service before senior year, and granting sophomores universal passes.

The Senate agreed on the following basic premises:

1. Open campus is a privilege, not a right, and should be treated as such.

2. Even though freshmen and sophomores can be responsible enough to have a privilege like open campus, the "freedoms and choices" included with such a privilege should not be offered to "students of this age."

3. There should be an environment that encourages students to stay on campus during free time. The school should provide adequate lunchroom facilities, enough time to eat, and possibly, student lounges for socialization or quiet study areas.

4. Faculty members should hold study halls "conducive to work."

"I'm not sure that [the universal sophomore pass] is a good idea. It would be hard to keep track of sophomores. I know I'd be tempted to leave."

-Sophomore Jon Amar

The current requirements for open campus are parental permission, a 2.0 grade point average, and the completion of 20 hours of community service by junior year.

One possible change requires students to "reapply" for open campus if it is lost at any point.

Other potential changes incorporate raising the GPA requirement from 2.0 to 2.5 or requiring 20 hours of community service done before junior year and 30 hours done before senior year.

Senators Eleanor Moakley and Laura Lasa presented their idea for a universal pass for the sophomores. The pass would allow sophomores to leave their study halls to do errands on campus. They would not need to get signed passes from teachers; instead, they would check in and out of studies by showing their universal passes.

In support of this policy, junior senator Teddy Ben-Harav commented, "I don't think grade should matter. You can't help it if you are a freshman." Senior senator Jake Kissel responded, "There has to be an age cut off. Open campus is a privilege."

Sophomore Jon Amar added, "I'm not sure [the sophomore universal pass] is a good idea. It would be hard to keep track of sophomores. I know I'd be tempted to leave campus."

School Budget Set at Town Meeting

by Owen Patrick

The school's 1998 fiscal budget has been set at $42.5 million. Although this is a 6.5 percent increase over 1997's $40 million, School Superintendent Jeffrey Young had hoped for an allotment of $43.2 million.

Originally, only $40.9 million had been designated for the schools' budget, but through negotiations prior to the Town Meeting, a compromise was reached. To cover the increase of 2.6 million dollars, several cuts were made elsewhere in the town's budget. Cuts in the budgets of the town's computer system, Public Works Department, Cary Memorial Library, and fire department freed up $83,000 from the Town's municipal budget. The Board of Selectmen's reduction sets the municipal budget back to a modest 1.4 percent increase over last year.

"We all would have liked more money, but the budget is a tight issue."

-Principal Philip Lanoue

"We all would have liked more money, but the budget is a tight issue," said Principal Philip Lanoue.

The School Committee also made cuts to accommodate the compromise budget. In a 3-2 vote, the School Committee agreed to the $720,000 decrease in the schools' 1998 fiscal budget. Elementary French, special education tutors, and technology aides were not exceeded. However, equipment and learning materials received a $300,000 cutback.

Illustrated by the 3-2 vote, the issue was not decisively agreed upon. Some viewed the cuts as another in a series of hits on education. The prevailing majority of the School Committee considered the 6.5 percent budget increase as sufficient. Also to be taken into considerationis the renovation project for the Lexington Schools. If the override is passed in the fall, taxpayers are projected to pick up the $34 million tab expected to fall on Lexington.

Also at issue were increasing numbers of students from Lexington and concerns over how to accommodate an increase in special education at the school next year. To cover the request, the Board of Selectmen dipped into the sewer enterprise fund.

The new budget will go into effect July 1, 1997, with the beginning of the 1998 fiscal year.

Illegal Parking Means Loss of Open Campus

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a parking permit in the lottery held last fall, and criticized the school's parking limitations. Senior Dave Kong castigated the bill's result of forcing those without permits to park on neighboring streets: "I get my exercise through tennis, not by walking to and from my car to school." Junior Kate Waller commented, "I can understand having a 'senior privilege' policy, but it seems more like a 'faculty and staff privilege' policy. Some students need to drive to school and need a parking space. Teachers should be able to find a parking space because they have a job to do, but as students, we also have a job: we're here to learn." Although favoring the current system, senior Dan Shiau sympathized with its opponents, remarking, "It seems harsh...I can see how juniors might be upset."

Most faculty and staff are pleased with the changes concerning school parking policy. Months before Lanoue promulgated his parking enforcement policy, history teacher Sam Kafrissen speculated at the source of the problem, remarking, "Since Alliance Security isn't here anymore, there's no one to make sure people don't park in the wrong spaces."

According to Lanoue's memorandum, the enforcement mechanism will consist of "two organizations[:] the town and school."

News Briefs

NATIONAL MERIT FINALISTS NAMED AT TOWN MEETING

Congratulations to National Merit Finalists Jessica Carlisle, Christine Chiou, Andrew Garland, Geddes Golay, Jake Kissel, Peter Litwack, Eric Rosenbaum, Michael Sackton, Timothy Sackton, Carey Schwaber, and David Schwartz. National Merit Scholars, who will then receive $2000 scholarships, will be announced on April 30.

ONCE AGAIN, GERMAN FEST IS LARGE SUCCESS

On Wednesday, March 5, the students of German I, II, and III/IV presented the 15th annual German Fest, an evening of original skits, music, and advertisements. Guests were treated to meals and student performances. German Fest has become quite a tradition at LHS!

-Marian Comenetz

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR SEMIFINALISTS NAMED

Congratulations to seniors and Presidential Scholar semifinalists Carey Schwaber and Christine Chiou. 140 Presidential Scholars will be chosen from the pool of 500 semifinalists. Based on SAT scores, over 2600 students were invited to apply to be Presidential Scholars. Winners receive an all-expenses trip to Washington, D.C., to participate in National Recognition Week.

SCHOOLS COMBINE FOR MOZART'S *REQUIEM*

The choruses and orchestras of Belmont High School, Concord Academy, and Lexington High School convened in the Donald J. Gillespie Auditorium on April 10 to perform Mozart's *Requiem* in d minor. For over an hour, audience members listened to the 13 movements of the *Requiem*.

ASIAN NIGHT ENTERTAINS LHS STUDENTS, FACULTY

The Asian Club held their annual Asian Night on April 11. While students and faculty members ate an assortment of Asian food, they were entertained with puppet shows, karaoke, poetry readings, traditional Asian music, and various dances.

Annual Science Fair Attracts Many Students

by Jason LeeKeenan

On March 11, 1997, Lexington High School held its annual science fair, with over 135 entries. Over 85 volunteer judges assessed the projects, choosing 33 finalists, 30 of which who went on to the Region IV Science Fair on March 22.

First prize Winners included: Tovah Day, Felicia Kuo, Caroline Lee, Jason LeeKeenan, David Rosner,Yea-Tyng Tang, and Chi-An Wang. Second Prize winners were Herbert Chen, Amal Dorai, Brian Hemond, Radu Istrate, Abigail Krich, Kelly Kwan, Aaron McCloskey, Brendan Reddy, Jeremy Silber, Sonya Taaffe, Sheaumei Tsai, Erik Wang, and Ken Weinstein. Third Prize winners were Elisabeth Bobrow, Tom Bellini, David Fouche, David Fouche, Ken Kolodziej, Paul Jensen, Matti Meharry, Katherine Rose, Rachel Rutishauser, Kate Walsh, and Justin Wang. Honorable Mentions included Srinath Gaddam, Sarah Park, and Michal Zilberman.

The prestigious judging crew included Harvard and M.I.T. professors, commercial scientists, state politicians, members of the LHS faculty, and former LHS students. Thanks to department head Nicholas Tzimopoulos, 53 corporate sponsors donated money to the school science fair, handing out over $4000 in cash and four $5000 scholarships to Boston University at the award ceremony on March 14. State Representative Jay Kaufman attended the ceremony to present special awards. Due to the extensive funds raised for this event, every participant received an award, ranging from Boston Celtics tickets to cash prizes of over five hundred dollars. Said first-prize winner Yea-Tyng Tang, "Everybody's a winner!"

There were, however, a number of logistical glitches this year. Chemistry teacher Judy Masselam explained, "We tried some new things this year, like holding the fair at Cary Hall [instead of at LHS] and numbering the projects by category." However, each project was also numbered within a category, making it difficult for judges to differentiate between "BS-3" (project number three from Behavioral & Social Sciences) and "BI-3" (project number three from Biochemistry). Masselam explained, "We basically like the concepts, but we still have to work out a couple of bugs."

While Cary Hall provided a stimulating and energetic science fair atmosphere, very similar to the atmosphere at Regionals, the immense number of projects made the space extremely crowded and noisy. Participants found it difficult to move from one end of the hall to the other without walking directly through a judging in progress. Despite these "bugs," Masselam concluded that "as always, it was a really good show; the students came through as they always have." This year's success can also be attributed to the outstanding help of the LHS science fair committee, science teachers Peg Schwartz, Scott Carpenter, Douglas Grant, Judith Masselam, Charles O'Reilly, and Edgar Stuhr.

At the Region IV Science Fair on March 22, 15 Lexington students advanced to the Massachusetts State Science Fair: Elisabeth Bobrow, Tovah Day, Radu Istrate, Felicia Kuo, Caroline Lee, Jason LeeKeenan, Sarah Park, David Rosner, Jeremy Silber, Sonya Taafe, Yea-Tyng Tang, Erik Wang, Ken Weinstein, and Michal Zilberman.

Playing cards is not an official activity at LHS, but it is popular anyways.
-photo courtesy of LHSYearbook

What Are Your Favorite Clubs Doing?

by Rochelle Mackey

The following is a compilation of what is happening in the clubs at LHS and whom to contact if you would like to get involved:

AIDS Distribution Society is working on becoming an affiliate of the AIDS Action Committee (based in Copley). If you are interested in volunteer work with the AIDS Action Committee, contact Carolyn Bloomburg. Plans for next year include member recruitment, school workshops, fundraisers, and a rave.

Asian Club: On April 11th the Asian Club celebrated Asian Night at the high school. Also, May is Asian Heritage Month. Anyone interested in joining the Asian Club should contact Dan Shiau, Dave Schwartz, Dan Bauer, Yen-Ching Wu, or Dave Yusah for information.

Big Brother/Big Sister The Big Brothers and Big Sisters have been paired with younger children for the year. They will probably be meeting as a group at the end of the year to discuss the program and plan for next year. If you are interested, contact Khadijah Jones.

The Black Student Union's recent performance of their play Color Matters was a great success. They are now planning and fundraising for a Culture Night which will feature ethnic foods, a fashion show with traditional costume, and other exciting entertainment. Look for announcements! Tickets will be on sale shortly. Contact Windia Rodriguez, Charity Hobbs, Lawrence Randolph or Khadijah Jones for information if you want to be involved.

Chess Club meets X-blocks in G-cafeteria. Leaders are Mandar Muzumdar and Song Kim.

The Classic Film Club will be showing The Shining as well as many other exciting classic films. Look for the posters on the wall and come! It's free and fun! If you have any questions, contact Siobhan Quinlan or Kathryn Manz.

The Community Service Club Nine people will be presenting a puppet show to a group of asthmatic children from the American Lung Association on June 1st. Also, on April 12th the Community Service Club and all class councils participated in the National Hunger Clean-up. The student leaders are Julie Macaral and Becca Mayer.

Computer Club is currently helping faculty with computer related tasks. Visit their website at http://neon.ci.lexington.ma.us.

Country Music Club Members attended a Garth Brooks concert in April

Dance Club [see Dance Club article]

Drama Club is planning a movie night for April, and a trip to New York and a costume ball for May. Drama club elections will also be in May. Contact Hester Young, Aaron Bonner-Jackson, Summer McKean, Andrew Garland, or Christina Chapman if you are interested in joining.

EPIIC-Inquiry is a program similar to MUN in that LHS represents a country and debates on a topic at a simulation. EPIIC will be attended a simulation on April 11-12 at Tufts where they represented Brazil on the topic of "The Future of Democracy in Latin America." Interested students should contact Raphael Bras or Mr. Lopez.

Folio, the LHS literary magazine, will be coming out at the end of the school year. If you want to submit stories, poems, drawings, photographs, or other creative writing, leave the piece in the Folio box in H-Caf labeled with name and phone number. Any questions, contact Hester Young.

French Club Cabaret was a great success. Meetings are currently being planned for the future. If you have any questions contact Lien DeBroukere, Nick Vargelis, or David Rosner.

LINK is an organization for new students. LINK activities occur at the beginning of the school year. If you would like further information, contact Katherine Rose or Michal Zilberman.

Mustard Seeds Weekly meetings are Tuesday nights. If interested, contact Linda Yeo, John Aureli, or Tom Colotasti.

OTAS just had its first surfing outing on April 8th. OTAS will have a bowling outing, a pool night, and a drive in movie night sometime soon. Look for signs on the walls.

RPG contact Igor Levit or David Lisle for information.

SADD contact Theresa Green for more information.

Save Sex Club contact Mariam Levy for more information.

Ski Club Ski season is pretty much over now. Contact Brian Eggleton if you would like us to join for next year.

Spanish Club contact Lawrence Randolph or Amy Fair for information.

Ultimate Frisbee and Penta Games contact Amy Fair or Keegan Uhl for information.

EPIIC member Dave Schwartz practices his argumentation skills.
-photo courtesy of LHSYearbook

Anyone Can Dance!

by Michal Zilberman

Dance Club was founded about ten years ago when two dance enthusiasts decided that LHS needed more excitement. Until three years an audition was required for admittance to Dance Club. This is no longer the case. The Dance Club motto has changed dramatically over the years from, "Dance is to be taken seriously by serious dancers" to "Anyone can dance so come join us!"

Rachel McLellan was among the first Dance Club presidents. She comments, "It was really cool....we were all there for one purpose, to dance!" Leah Theriault, the current co-president of Dance Club, says, "It seems like over the years Dance Club has gotten less serious and far more fun....I like it that way." Anne Carey, a professional choreographer and dancer, has been the Dance Club advisor for the past few years. Carey's innovative dances are easy enough that anyone can dance to her choreography, but creative enough to be interesting.

Last year's first Dance Club performance was, as some described, "goofy" and "funny.". Dancers dressed up in crazy runway outfits and danced to "Vouge", changed their outfits to swing around the stage, and finally, put on primitive clothing to thump around the stage with sticks in the "Stick Dance." This year, the performance was slightly tamer but much more professional, with many solo and duet guest appearances from non-Dance Club members. The Dance Club enjoyed the contributions of dedicated seniors who joined last minute but were a great addition to the show.

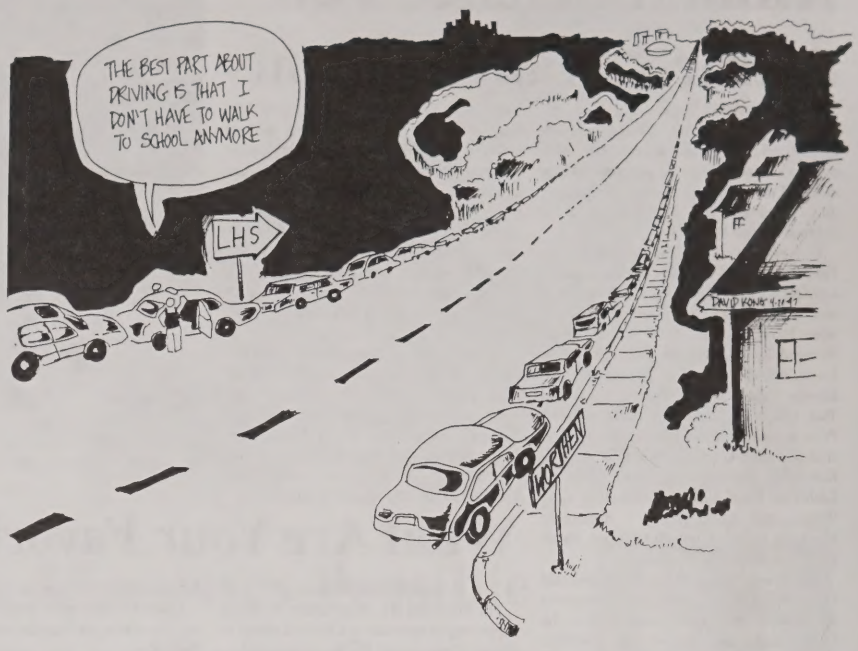
This year, the second Dance Club performance will be less conservative and more provocative. In addition to dancing, the show, Phantasmagoria, will include guest appearances by The Reelers, Mixed Nuts, the Improv Troupe, and other groups. The performance will be on June 7, and should be a blast. And remember, "Anyone can dance!"

DSI: Right Idea, Wrong Presentation

Lexington High School's Drama Social Issues presentations are supposed to do two things: present important social issues that affect the student body, and present them in a lively, entertaining, meaningful way. DSI presentations are supposed to be fun versions of all that stuff you slept through during Life Skills. But the audience's deadpan reactions reveal a simple truth: the DSI presentations are lackluster at best, and fail at both their missions.

Recent DSI presentations have the feel of recent *Saturday Night Live* episodes: tired, repetitive, and stale. It seems that much of DSI is SNL; at the recent DSI presentation, it was the SNL take-offs that got the most laughs. These SNL-cum-DSI skits are not even parodies or satires of the SNL originals, but rather blatant copies. The audience's reaction is stiff and predictable: we laugh where we laughed during SNL, with no more thought to the "social issues" than we give on Saturday night. Sure, the *What is Love* scenes are funny, but they were also taken straight from SNL. That's not originality. That's plagiarism.

DSI's performers seem to believe that if they repeat the same scene over again and again, the audience will somehow find it funny. How many more clichéd talk show skits or teen-angst phone calls does the student body need to see? Worse than that, though: how many more times must we be treated to the epileptic wonders of the opening scene



There's no reason why DSI presentations can't be lively, entertaining, and original. The students involved in DSI are some of LHS' best and most creative.

in which everyone freezes and individuals come forward with their "personal problems"? The DSI performers have amply demonstrated that they can play "Red Light, Green Light," but it's time for something new.

DSI programs have an excellent concept, and the idea of presenting social issues in an engaging way is something the school should endorse wholeheartedly. But when many of the skits in the program do not even relate to the issue, and those that do give trite, superficial treatment, then DSI is not working.

There's no reason why DSI presentations can't be lively, entertaining, and original. The students involved in DSI are some of LHS' best and most creative, and there's no reason why they should have to rely on tired SNL skits to get laughs. The occasional reference to SNL might be a good thing, but not when it's the only thing that gets a laugh. DSI provides students a great opportunity for both humor and depth. No other outlet gives students such a chance to satirize life at LHS, or in Lexington.

The best skits in DSI's of the past have been those which take a serious issue and put it into the context of LHS. Parodies of classes and teachers get laughs and themselves serve an important role: relieving some of the student-teacher tension. The tired, generalized skits—those of SNL and talk show and generic party scene—get tired and generalized because they are not personal to LHS. Any acting troupe can do a parody of a talk show. It takes a much better group to make its own original repertoire; LHS certainly does not lack the talent to do so.

The Drama Social Issues program is an excellent one which LHS should be proud to have. The challenge, though, is for DSI to stay innovative and creative. With a new emphasis, the DSI could have audiences cheering instead of snoring.

-Andrew Rabkin

Compulsory Attendance a Sickly Policy

Behind the seemingly benign attendance policy lurks the danger of a health crisis. Increasingly, that pale-faced individual sitting next to you in class is no longer the result of poor judgement, but attendance policy. Compulsory attendance leaves students having missed more than six school days with few alternatives. They must either avert the failing grade by attending school, risking the infection of staff and students, or avoid failing by making their absence "official" with a physician's note. It appears that neither of these options preserves public health. Possibly the latter imperils the general public to a greater degree.

Requiring an absence to be authorized by a physician diverts assistance from those truly in need of medical attention. If the majority of a doctor's time is spent writing notes for students, the illnesses, which pose a greater danger to the public, are left unattended. Furthermore, it trivializes the medical profession, by shifting responsibility, historically left in the capable hands of a parent, to the medical practitioner. By mandating that students receive a doctor's note, the attendance policy imposes a financial burden on the student's family. For an absence to be "legitimate" requires running to the doctor's office every time you have a cold or similar illness.

Health care is expensive; many families simply do not have the financial resources to facilitate the school's wishes. If the family does squander their financial resources, the more perilous family illnesses will undoubtedly be left unattended. An increase in physician intervention fortifies viral and bacterial resistance to treatment. Doctors usually prescribe antibiotics to combat common illnesses. Even a slight increase in visits to a doctor means that more antibiotics will be prescribed. The potential risk is students will stop taking antibiotics early, or the incorrect amount will be prescribed. If students stop taking antibiotics early, large enough bacterial populations will exist, precluding effective response by the immune system. Surviving bacteria would divide, and become resistant to the antibiotics.

Despite all this evidence, advocates for the policy remain. Numerous supporting arguments exist. Unfortunately, when long term effects of the attendance policy are considered, affirmative arguments fall through. The argument that teachers spend more time helping sick or truant students catch up with their work is invalidated when more students who normally would be attending school need to be "caught up" due to illness created by the policy.

By far, students will not be forced to confront such risks, but those who do risk the school's as well as the public's welfare. To eliminate the possibility of an epidemic, the incentive for students to attend school while sick should be eliminated.

-Allen Riddell

Be a Tour Guide

Students 14 years and older can be tour guides on the Battle Green. Hours are flexible. Training programs are available. After passing oral and written exams, guides will be issued official licenses by the Board of Selectmen.

Any interested students may pick up an application form at the Visitors Centre, 1875 Massachusetts Avenue, or may call S. Lawrence Whipple, Director of Guides, at 862-0626 for more complete information.

ANIMAL CRACKERS

COME SEE LHS STUDENTS PERFORM THE CLASSIC MARX BROTHERS' PLAY ON STAGE!

May 8 and 9, 8:00 PM
May 10, 2:00 and 8:00 PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM CAST AND ORCHESTRA MEMBERS

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Cartoonist ..... Dave Kong

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Town Scholarships Should Recognize More than a Few

A major part of the college experience involves financial aid and scholarships. Now that most seniors have been accepted to universities, they begin the long and tedious process of filling out scholarship forms. In some cases, they may be applying for national scholarships, such as the National Merit Scholarships or the Coca-Cola Awards. On the other hand, many people will be applying for the town's memorial scholarship awards. A list of these awards can be found in E-House. Usually, the scholarships are set up to commemorate the memory of a late Lexington High School student. Applicants are asked to write essays and present recommendations as to why they meet the criteria to win the award. Although a good number of these awards are need-based, a few are not. In such an instance, anyone is allowed to apply, regardless of "financial aid." This is most unfortunate and should be corrected for many reasons.

First, it is very obvious that some kids need more money than others. Everyone is aware of the high cost of tuition in the United States. However, it is safe to say that a student whose annual family income is over $100,000 is not as deserving of a scholarship as someone whose family income comes under $40,000. In this situation, it is obvious that an extra $500 can make a lot of difference to someone who just can't afford to go to college.

Second, the open scholarships tend to be easier to satisfy (in terms of criteria) than most of the need-based scholarship. It is very difficult for people to be able to meet all of the standards for many of the need-based scholarships. Often, a person has to have a history of living in Lexington or a parent who was born in Lexington. The open, memorial scholarships tend to be set up in a way that a student can at least explain why he meets the qualities the scholarship committee requires. By making these scholarship a "free for all," many deserving applicants can be elbowed out by fierce competition who might not necessarily need the money as desperately.

Finally, it is obvious that some students are liable to win every single award presented. There are students who look extremely good on paper. These students may have won competitions and scholarships galore, but this does not give them the right to walk away on awards night with 18 awards. Some people are more flashy than others. These scholarships were set up to give the other students of Lexington High School a chance to win something. These students may be more unassuming and less aggressive than their showy counterparts. That is not to say that wealthier, award-laden students should be forbidden to apply to scholarships. However, they should have the discretion and good taste to recognize that others might have greater need for the financial aid. As seniors, students should be able to understand that everyone deserves a chance. Show some restraint. Give someone else a chance to walk down the aisle onto the stage. It could be the difference between going to college or not. More importantly, it is the public recognition of Lexington High School's unsung heroes. They, too, should have their moment in the spotlight and the eyes of their peers.

-Anagha Nadkarni

Letters to the Editor

LINCOLN-DOUGLAS, EXTEMP ARE DEBATE TOO

While reading Ram Gowda's article on Lexington debaters in the February issue of the Musket, I was surprised to find no mention whatsoever of the Lincoln-Douglas/speech team. As we are a major component of the debate program, I was puzzled that the article only dealt with policy debaters. Coached by Deborah Johnston, we, too, have had an extremely successful season in both speech and debate. For the record, seniors Josh Coffin, Enna Eskin, Larry Liff, and Andrew Rabkin have won awards in oratory, Lincoln-Douglas debate, and extemporaneous speaking, respectively. Junior Chris LeMar won the Mardi Gras speech tournament in Shrewbury on March 1 in novice extemporaneous speaking, while fellow junior Chetan Hertzig has won numerous awards in both Lincoln-Douglas and varsity extemp. Sophomores Kate Vogel, Sarah Platt, and Katherine Fisher have made it to elimination rounds in L-D at tournaments such as those held at Hendrick Hudson High School in New York, Newburgh Free Academy, and Needham High School. Along with Vogel, sophomores Matt Cohen and Bryan Marcovici have done well in extemporaneous speaking. Marcovici recently qualified as an alternate for the National Forensic League tournament to be held this June in Minnesota, which Vogel will be attending as an extemp speaker. Finally, freshmen Aaron Joslow and Jimmy Purvis have won awards in extemp and declamation, respectively.

Clearly, the Lincoln-Douglas/speech team is thriving. Please recognize us in the future.

-Chetan Hertzig

COMMENTARY ON IMAGEQUEST PROGRAM

I would like to comment on the article and editorial that discussed the Image Quest program in the January issue of the Musket.

1. Image Quest was offered as an optional, after-school activity for LHS students. The first two free sessions and subsequent group that LHS students registered for represented a pilot program. When Mr. Lanoue and I first began to receive negative feedback from students, parents and faculty, we met and agreed that this pilot would be the last session of Image Quest at LHS based on the many concerns that people raised. When first approached to offer Image Quest at LHS, I checked to see if there was any precedent for outside programs that charge a fee at LHS. Music lessons offered by private teachers at LHS are one such precedent. All band and orchestra members bring home the information about the optional lessons, costs, etc. at the beginning of the school year. The Music Department includes an explanatory memo regarding the classes. Making Image Quest available at LHS was viewed in a similar context. At no time was there ever any thought that Image Quest would replace or take away from the Life Skills classes.

2. I was quite pleased to see the depth and level of awareness evident in the discussions generated about gender issues and equity. I encourage the entire school community to continue these discussions and to speak out when concerns arise. I would also encourage students, faculty and parents to devote the same level of scrutiny and analysis to issues of racism and classism as well.

3. Having reviewed the Image Quest program, I do think that there were some confusions and misinterpretations as to the nature of the classes. Image Quest offers workshop participants an extensive list of over 45 topics to address in the course of their six to eight sessions. The young women choose the subjects to be addressed at their first session. This allows the workshops to be tailored to the needs and concerns of the participants. The goal is to provide learning experiences that promote a young girl's sense of self and control over her life.

I thank you for the opportunity to make these points and I encourage everyone in the LHS community to continue to provide feedback on all enhancement programs and course offerings. Through this forum of discussion we can all work together to achieve programs and classes of the highest quality. I am proud to be working with so many thoughtful and concerned people and I look forward to future "discussions."

-Jennifer Wolfrum
Coordinator of Health Education

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MONEY+POLITICS

Concerned citizens over 18 are invited to join a series of three conversations on Money+Politics. Registered voters of all ages, educational levels, ethnicities, and opinions are needed to represent the diversity of the Seventh Congressional District. Please volunteer to share your concerns and suggestions about issues such as campaign finance reform, lobbyists, public funding of campaigns, etc. (Members of the League of Women Voters are not eligible.) The goal of Money+Politics is to determine the principles to guide national legislation.

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan, issue-oriented, grassroots organization and the Harwood Group, a public policy think-tank are jointly sponsoring forums on Money+Politics. Citizen Assemblies are being held across the states of Massachusetts and Washington, as well as in the cities of Chicago and Los Angeles. Congressional Representatives will be attending the last meeting of the series to hear suggestions from their constituents. Suggestions from around the country will be compiled into a report which will be used to advise Congress. The goal of Money+Politics is to set principles to guide legislation.

A conversation in our district will be held on May 8 in the evening. The final session will be a Saturday on or near May 31 for about six hours, centered around lunch. If you are interested in joining these conversations or for more information, please call me at 862-1651 or Carma Forgie in Arlington, the 7th District Coordinator, (617) 643-7622.

-Marjorie Daggett
League of Women Voters

Dave and Dave

Well boys and girls, it's that time of year again. Christmas egg nog has long since disappeared from the super market shelves (mmm . . . noggy goodness), and Easter candy is suddenly so cheap you want to eat goobers until your muscles asphyxiate and you can barely see. Yes folks, it's spring, and we're going road tripping. Being the children of yuppie parents, Dave and I, armed with hundred dollar traveler's checks and cellular phones (no teddy bears– we're real men), are on an expedition into the concrete jungle known only as Lexington center, or affectionately, "giggles." There we hope to catch a glimpse of that magical yearly event where muskets flare and diatribes fly. Unfortunately, we couldn't get a ride to *Yeo v. Town of Lexington,* so we settled for the Patriots' Day re-enactment.

Sunday, April 20, 1997: Waking at the crack of noon, Dave and I began to prepare gear for our expedition: color-coordinated L.L. Bean hiking outfits with matching argyle socks, and, of course, four kilos of fine Turkish hashish. Ha! We were just kidding about the last part; we only brought two kilos. With our gear intact, we roughed the bike path until we emerged at our resting spot for the night: the lavishly appointed Battle Green Inn.

Monday, April 21, 1997: In the morning the center was teeming with people who had come to see the annual massacre. Amidst the shouts of "Go Lex!" and "Nail 'em Nathaniel!" the Minutemen fought, but once again they lost to the British, 8-0, a shutout. We were hoping that this would be the year they'd go all the way, but we attribute their defeat to inferior coaching and rough turf conditions. However, we did manage to get exclusive interviews with a couple of the minutemen:

Dave: So how do you think the battle went?
Minuteguy #1: We gave it 110%; the offense played well, but our batting, if you get my drift, was below par. We had a three stroke lead going into the back nine, but we couldn't keep our tee shots on the fairway. Next year we're not going to stick to this whole historical accuracy thing— we get a couple of anti-personnel mines, some solid-state anti-tank weaponry, and a good toaster oven, and by noon we'll be feasting on their entrails.
Dave: Um. . . Yeah [note to selves: never wear tight breeches. They seem to 'constrict' 'mental function,' if you catch our drift]

Dave: What happened out there?
Minuteguy #2: Well, I think somebody played some kind of a practical joke on me. My musket was loaded with blanks! I'll admit, I got a bit carried away and switched to an automatic so I could mow down some of the crowd, but of course nobody was hurt. Although, I think I did do some damage to a few tulips with my bayonet.

Dave: So why did you get killed?
Minuteguy #3: Actually, I just fell over.

Dave: Do you have change for a fifty?
Minuteguy #4: Uh, two twenties and a ten okay?
Dave: Thanks.

Dave: Who were the New York Yankees playing when Dave Winfield accidentally beaned and killed a seagull?
Eric "Minuteguy #5" Rosenbaum: The Toronto Blue Jays?
Dave: Correct [note: this interview was an excerpt from a fine evening of Trivial Pursuit; Rosenbaum won, dazzling us with his knowledge of useless facts]

Despite their horrendous losing streak, the Minutemen brightened at the prospect of next year. One Minuteman was overheard saying, "if at first you don't succeed, try, try, again. If you still don't succeed, get better guns."

-Dave and Dave

Counselor-in-Training Positions Available

The Kendall Center for the Arts will hold a Vacation Arts Camp from July 7 to August 22. Gain work experience, enhance a resume, and make a little money.

If you have any questions, contact Catherine McCulloch, Educational Director, Kendall Center for the Arts at (617) 489-4090.

The champion Science Olympiad Team.

-photo by Missy Carpenter

LHS Science Team State Champs Again

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Acton-Boxboro, by more than 30 points, which in context means that LHS could have surrendered three of their first place finishes and still won. Coach Scott Carpenter commented, "last year it was close, but this year it was a massacre."

Led by co-captains David Kong and David Schwartz, the team placed among the top three schools in 10 out of 18 events, while placing in the top ten in all other events but two.

"This year, we prepared, anticipating victory, and kicked some serious booty. The expectation for future teams will be nothing less than first place."

-Co-Captain David Kong

In a field of nearly thirty schools, LHS proved the juggernaut, while establishing a tradition of expected success for future teams.

Four year member David Kong said, "A few years ago the team would go into the event totally unprepared and do decently. Last year, nobody expected us to win, but the talent on our team gave us the victory. This year, we prepared, anticipating victory, and kicked some serious booty. The expectation for future teams will be nothing less than first place."

Team members placing in the top three in their events include Christine Chiou and Tim Dunn in Chemistrty Lab, Mandar Muzumdar and DanShiau in Bio Processes, Mandar Muzumdar and Rafael Bras in Science of Fitness, Peter Litwack and Tim Dunn in Chemistry Clue, David Kong and David Schwartz in Write It/Do It, David Kong and Ram Gowda in Water Quality, Ram Gowda and Sarah Park in Designer Genes, Dan Shiau and Ken Weinstein in Earth Science Processes, Steven Davis and Kai-Jae Wang in Scrambler, and Peter Litwack in Periodic Table.

Since their top 20 finish at the National event at Atlanta in '96, the team has undergone intense training and preparation, as the key to victory in these events is simple: study. Co-captain David Schwartz remarked, "victory in these events is like a 99 cent bacon double cheeseburger; it's cheap, but it still tastes good."

Schwartz's lunch break was among one of few reprieves from study, however, as the entire team engaged in weekly study sessions, while some team members spent hours of their free time tinkering with various mechanical contraptions for the engineering events.

This year's squad of swashbucklers include Aaron Adler, Rafael Bras, Christine Chiou, Steven Davis, Tim Dunn, Ram Gowda, Saro Getzoyan, David Kong, Jason LeeKeenan, Peter Litwack, Mandar Muzumdar, Sarah Park, David Schwartz, Dan Shiau, Sheaumei Tsai, Kai-Jae Wang, Ken Weinstein, along with the freshmen pit crew of Jong, Russell, Angela, Zara, Sylvia, and Rudy.

The next step for the team? Gold at Chapel Hill, of course.

SENIORS!

As always, the Graduation Issue of the *Musket* will include a list of graduates and their plans for next year. Please complete this form with your name as you would like it published in the *Musket* and a brief statement of your plans for next year. If those plans include attending college, state which college (no abbreviations, please). All forms must be returned to the "Names and Places" box in the main office by MONDAY, MAY 26, 1997. You can also e-mail responses by May 20 to musket@stu.ci.lexington.ma.us. Thanks for your cooperation and help!

NAME_____

PLANS_____

NAMES AND PLACES

LHS Goes to Belize

by Emily Sterzin

Three chaperones and 19 LHS students were lucky enough to spend February vacation in Belize. Organized by social studies and history teacher Deborah Johnston, the trip was a "once in a lifetime experience" for the students. "I wanted to share my experience and appreciation of the rain forest with the students," explained Johnston. The 10-day trip, which was much too short for those vacationing, consisting of five days in the rain forest and five on an island on the Belize Barrier Reef. When asked to describe the experience, it was often impossible to put into words. "It was great!" raved participant Josh Rudner.

As the group stepped off the airplane in Belize, they were greeted by overwhelming and welcome heat. Their excitement and anticipation could not be contained, despite the bumpy three-hour ride from Belize City to Rio Bravo Research Station, where they spend the first half of the trip. In addition to learning about the rain forest and its ecology, the tour group hiked, swam at a Mennonite community, toured Mayan ruins, both excavated and unexcavated, took early morning bird walks, and ate a traditional Mayan lunch.

Senior Hanwei Hsieh was especially impressed with the Rio Bravo guides. "They were so dedicated to educating us about saving the rain forest for its beauty and importance. That was their goal, using only what they needed to get the job done, nothing more. It was inspiring." Seniro Keegan Uhl commented, "Why am I [at school]? I could be learning seomthing."

Some particularly memorable experiences included observing leaf cutter ant "highways," bellyflopping out of a tree into a natural spring, chasing monkeys, and climbing Mayan temples.

However, there were downsides to the rain forest as well. The majority of the group were infested with chiggers, miniscule insects that release digestive enzymes in human skin. Although the chiggers "itched like crazy," remarked one student, "being in the rain forest made it all worth it."

After leaving Rio Bravo, the students and chaperones headed tow South Water Cay. On an essentially private eight-acre island, the group stayed at the Pelican University dormitory. Daily activities consisted of watching the sunrise, snorkeling, relaxing in the sun, snorkeling, watching the sunset, snorkeling, learning about the reef, and stargazing. Highlights included swimming with barracudas, a nurse shark, jellyfish, stingrays, coral, relaxing in hammocks, cross dressing, and sleeping outside.

Sharing a bond, Maggie Allan, Jessi Buckley, Becky Dedrick, Andrew Griffith, Sarah Hartman, Chris Haugen, Margeaux Herman, Hanwei Hsieh, Marie Jette, Deborah Johnston, Eric Johnston, Aaron Joslow, Becky Kraley, Eric LaJoie, Samantha Lowe, Meredith Nelson, Celeste Roberts, Dan Ronco, Josh Rudner, Emily Sterzin, Mary Taylor, and Keegan Uhl experienced an entirely different world. Jette expressed the feelings of the group, stating, "I wouldn't have traded this trip for anything in the world!"

Freshman Becky Kraley, a participant in the Belize trip, shows off her clarinet skills.

-photo by Brent Murakami

Cabaret A Smashing Success

by David Rosner

Countless hours of careful planning paid off for the French Club when one of the best Cabaret's in years was held on Friday, March 7. Guests and hosts alike were pleasantly surprised by the excellent acts and the terrific turnout.

Friday after schoo,l the normally tranquil atmosphere of J-Caf was shattered by members of the French Club as they transformed the bland cafeteria into an elegant French-themed reception hall.

Guests were treated to a vast array of French and European desserts and pastries, all either created in members' kitchens or purchased from local merchants. Patrons were served food and drinks at their own tables by a wait-staff composed of dedicated club members.

The acts, painstakingly booked and scheduled by officers Lien DeBrouckere, Dave Rosner, and Nick Vargelis, were phenomenal. Performances ranged from a plethora of A Cappella groups to skits by the Improv Troupe, a wacky Asian Club skit titled "The Continuing Adventures of Sun-oo-Kong," the wild sounds of the Leonard Nimoy Experience, and a traditional Chinese dulcimer performance.

Club members and Cabaret-goers alike were astonished by the spectacular attendance at this year's soiree. Approximately 200 people were present for the duration of the show, packing J-Caf and lending to a particularly festive atmosphere. Nick Vargelis, President of the French Club, commented, "This year's turnout was exceptional; it made all of our hard work really worth it."

With 18 different acts, audience members were kept of the edge of their seats for the duration of the show. During the Realers Rhythm and Blues Revue's closing act, the audience went wild, with almost everyone getting up to dance.

After the concert-goers made their way out of J-Caf that night, the French Club Officers, along with their advisor Mme. Girondel, began to clean up the colossal mess that was once a cafeteria.

Track tri-captain Aaron Alder, junior Josh Muller, and senior Tom Colatosti try to beat their opponent. Adler and Muller take first and second places, respectively.

-photo by Dan Myung

Track Off to a Running Start

by Kaytrue Ting

Following very successful indoor seasons, the girls' and boys' track and field teams are ready to move back outside and face the new hurdles that accompany a new season.

Coach Phil Crosby, the boys' head coach, is delighted with the focus and determination he has seen in the first weeks of practice.

"[Our goal for this seasons] is to be as competitive as we were in the indoor season whenever the occasion rises," said Crosby.

The distance team looks to be stronger with the return of many cross country runners. However, some sprinters were lost to other sports.

"We'll be stronger in some areas and weaker in others," said senior Aaron Adler. "We'll at least do as well as we did in indoor, and probably better." Adler, along with seniors Tim Calvin and Todd Rosenfield, will share the honors and duties of being captains.

The many returning runners, the boys' team looks prepared to face their nemesis, Reading.

"We're really hoping to break their 25 year [dual meet] winning streak," said Crosby with an optimistic smile.

The girls' team is also very optimistic, and Coach Ken Totas has enjoyed working with the old and new faces. Totas and Jane Bergin have their eyes set on a league championship.

"I think we have a really good shot at the league title, but we certainly will miss all the indoor runners that are doing other sports," said junior Amie Shei, who echoed the same sentiments as her coaches. "We just came off a great indoor season and there will be lots of returning teammates as well as a number of freshmen and newcomers."

The Minutemaids will also have to compete without the services of league all-star and tri-captain Hillary Donnellan, an excellent runner, triple jumper, and shot-putter. Donnellan, who will miss most of the season because of a foreign exchange, competed at Nationals in Houston last year as well as the Baystate Games. Totas hopes that people will "step in and fill the gaps" left by Donnellan's absence.

"We'll be stronger in some areas and weaker in others. We'll at least do as well as we did in indoor, and probably better."

-Senior Aaron Adler

Even without Donnellan, the girls' team still remains a solid group. Tri-captains Sarah Day, Ellen Humphrey, and Kristen Johansson are ready to lead them to a strong season. Also, many runners who had been injured during the indoor season, including Deena Mencow, Emily Wanderer, and Meredith Rommelfanger are now fully healthy and anxious to contribute to the team's success.

Girls' Tennis Will Surprise

by David Ly

After losing four of their seven varsity players from last year, the girls' tennis team is hoping that they can utilize a secret weapon on their opponents-the element of surprise.

"Maybe people think that since we lost so many players from last year, this year is going to be a rebuilding one," said coach Buzz Gillis. "But we'll surprise some top teams in the league."

The Minutemaids will bring back some very talented players, including their top singles and doubles players. Senior Arina Zohrabian and captain Tessa Randall will fill those slots.

"We have enough experience to do better [this year]," said Randall. "Other teams in the league lost a lot of players. We'll be right up there [competing] with Burlington and Winchester."

Balance will be the key for the Minutemaids, as the strength of the team rests with the singles players. Zohrabian has played #1 singles since her sophomore year. She will be joined by junior Leela Ramnath and freshman Dina Guth. Guth is the only freshman on varsity and will be playing at #2 singles. Ramnath will play third, and the trio will be formidable opponents to other teams.

Number one doubles will be filled with Randall and sophomore Jasmeen Spidle. The team of Randall and Spidle played solidly last year. Because of player absences, #2 doubles still remains a question mark for Gillis. however, senior Alissa Roeder and junior Alicia Cabrero look like the top choice to play behind Randall and Spidle.

"If we can do well in singles and win one point in doubles, we will be very successful...We're still trying to gel. But we're strong and we will be competitive in dual meets."

-Coach Buzz Gillis

"If we can do well in singles and win one point in doubles, we will be very successful," said Gillis. "If the singles is off, the doubles teams will step up."

Early on, it looked as though the Minutemaids had a chance to end their drought against Winchester. After a 5-0 knockout of Watertown, the 'Maids were hungry for Winchester. Although Lexington led early on, they could not crack Winchester's dominance in a 5-0 loss that took over two hours of playing time.

"We're still trying to gel," said Gillis. "But we're strong and we will be competitive in dual meets."

Girls' tennis captain Arina Zohrabian practices diligently for her upcoming meet.

-photo courtesy of Burlington Studios

Boys' Lax Faces Tough Opponents

by Spencer Nichols

Sophomore, junior and senior men did not have much time to enjoy the last few days of winter. Instead, the boys' lacrosse team started off the first days of spring by running more than ten miles. However, Coach Dave Lautman hopes the quick and rigorous start will pay dividends with a playoff berth at the end of the season.

"I'm always enthusiastic in the beginning of the season," said Lautman. "It's the core of talented players that is going to determine our success this season. Our second liners are a big factor to the team this year, and if our role players can play well, then that's going to determine if we win or lose a game."

Lexington will face some tough competition this year, especially in their own league. The Minutemen play in one of the most competitive leagues in the state right now. Six out of seven teams in the Middlesex League made it to the Divison 1 EMass tournament last year.

Despite the rugged schedule, Lexington has talented players in all positions and looks poised to establish itself as one of the elite teams in the league. The starting attack men this year look to be Nick Campisi, who is switching from being a midfielder, and Jeff Erickson, who is coming off a shoulder injury.

Right now, the third spot is empty, and Lautman feels that the position is a big question mark. However, he will have many experienced players in the midfield, including seniors Ben Brearly, Greg Costello, and Peter Groblewski and juniors Jeff Lopresti and Ethan Fried. Senior tri-captains Morgan McDuffee and Jeff McGaughran will use their football skills to ward off opposing attackers.

"[This year's team] should be very competitive if everything falls into place. If we can put it together...we'll be able to beat anybody."

-Coach Dave Lautman

Senior Dave Cavaretta will be a key part of the defense, with his speed and stickhandling skills. Junior Chris Beltz is also integral to the defense, stopping 40 shots in a 10-6 loss to a tough Winchester team in the second game. However, the Minutemen bounced back to beat Medford, with a final score of 11-2.

"This team has shown flashes [of good play]," said Lautman. "We're not moving without the ball and doing the basics. We're not executing—yet."

The "yet" means that Lautman will push his kids to their highest potential. Who knows how far this team can go?

"[This year's team] should be very competitive if everything falls into place," continued Lautman. "If we can put it together, we don't have the potential be just any team. We'll be able to beat anybody."

The Minutemen will be tested in the next few weeks, and they will quickly know if they will be among the elite teams. They will face four out of the top six teams in the state, and Lautman hopes to steal at least a win or two.

Varsity Scoreboard

as of April 23, 1997

Baseball	3-1
Lacrosse	
Boys'	1-2
Girls'	4-0
Softball	2-0
Tennis	
Boys'	2-1
Girls'	2-1
Track	
Boys'	2-2
Girls'	3-1

Lacrosse team members Sarah Goldfine, Emily Edmonston, Margeaux Herman, Brook Alloway, Pam Roffi, and Alice Lin take a break.

Girls' Lax Off to Strong Start Despite Rebuilding

by Becky Ticotsky

When a basketball team loses all of its starters to graduation, the team can only expect to do poorly. And when a lacrosse team loses all 13 of its starters, the word "rebuilding" comes to mind quickly.

That is the situation that the Lexington girls' lacrosse team is in this year. Although Coach Ellen Vera does admit that the team will have to rebuild from last year, many of this season's rookies played on an undefeated J.V. team last year. In addition, they possess the essential, but unteachable, desire to succeed.

"When a team expects to win, they usually go out and win," Vera stated frankly before the season. "This team's history is winning. I think that will take us pretty far this season."

Last year, the Minutemaids won the 1996 North Division championship, posting a 16-2 overall record. The squad finally lost in the semi-finals of the state tournament by one goal to a powerful Newton North.

"When a team expects to win, they usually go out and win. This team's history is winning. I think that will take us pretty far this season."

-Coach Ellen Vera

This season, Lexington is back on track to win another division title. Despite having no returning starters, the eight-year coach's assessment proved correct as Lexington is currently 4-0. In its first game of the year, Lexington impressively defeated league rival Winchester, 16-14.

With 13-4 and 14-3 defeats of Billerica and Beverly, respectively, the 'Maids hung together as a team, triumphing over Lincoln-Sudbury 11-10.

"The entire team collectively played well," said senior co-captain Emily Edmonston of the L-S game. "We really clicked."

Senior co-captain defenseman Margeaux Herman leads the young team along with Edmonston. Two of the team's additions are junior attack player Christina Orf, who Vera said has "gained tremendous skill and poise" since last season, possibly due to her added experience on the varsity field hockey team, and goalie Ami Karkar, the only sophomore on the varsity team.

With Newton North looking strong again, along with opponents Framingham, Weston, and Winchester in its North Division, Lexington faces quite a challenge. Nevertheless, Lexington is off to a great start. Coach Vera agrees.

"I think [winning the league] is definitely within reach."

Young Baseball Team Expected to Step Up to Bat

by Alex Sherman

Thirty inches of snow? April fools, Lexington baseball. On April 1st, one week before the scheduled start of the high school baseball season, no one was thinking about America's pastime. Instead, all were decked out in scarves and winter jackets with shovels, not bats, in hand. But now the sun has come out and the snow has melted away. The show will go on.

Led by six returning starters, the boys' varsity baseball team should contend for the Middlesex League title this year. However, they will first have to find a way to make up for the loss of important seniors from last year.

"Our number one goal for this year is to win the league title," said coach Tom O'Grady. "That is most important to us this season."

The team, which went 12-8 in the Middlesex League last season and lost in the second round of the playoffs to Central Catholic, has high hopes for this year. Left-fielder Ben Bines, second baseman Mike Sperandio, and starting pitcher Bobby Nasson are the senior tri-captains, and they will have to make up for the graduation of three all-league players from last season in Adam Fisher, Matt Kishlansky, and Scott Perry, the ace of the staff.

"When you graduate Fisher, Kishlansky, and Perry, that is a lot to lose for one team," commented O'Grady. "We'll be relying on our lettermen to lead some of the newer sophomores."

"Our number one goal for this year is to win the league title. That is most important to us this season."

-Coach Tom O'Grady

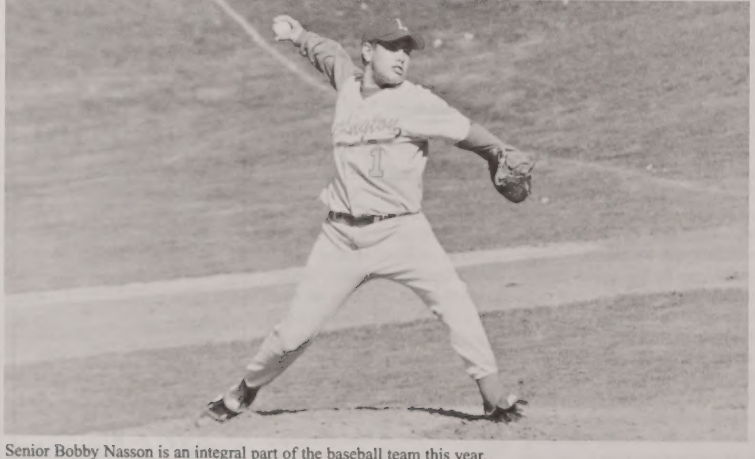
Despite the losses, Lexington has the tools to make the tournament again. Juniors Ben Caram, Eric Armstrong, and last year's freshman phenom Tom Bellini round out the returning starters. Armstrong will be relied upon as a big bat for Lexington. Bellini will play the outfield with Armstrong, and Caram will handle the catching duties. Bellini should be a big part of the offense this year. As a freshman, he led Lexington in batting average.

O'Grady is impressed with his line-up. "We should be able to swing the bat pretty well. We've got some good returning hitters and we should not have a problem scoring runs."

Defensively, Lexington has one of the best second baseman in the league in Sperandio, who committed only one error in the entire season last spring. Bines is also a solid outfielder in left.

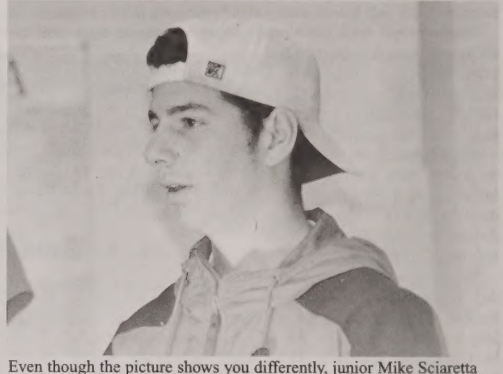
Lexington will be up against some excellent teams this year. The Reading Rockets, fresh from a state championship, are the preseason favorites to win the Middlesex League title. Burlington, Stoneham, Wakefield, and Winchester are also strong contenders.

"With the loss of Scott Perry, we have a big void to fill," said O'Grady. "We are going to need to rely on some younger guys to help fill Scott's shoes along with Bobby [Nasson] if we are going to beat the top Middlesex League teams and win the Title."



Senior Bobby Nasson is an integral part of the baseball team this year.

-photo courtesy of Burlington Studios



Even though the picture shows you differently, junior Mike Sciaretta will see some action on the courts this season.

Boys' Tennis Looks to Repeat '96 Record

by Fabien Rabanal and Alex Sherman

The tennis season is back, but unlike previous years, the opportunities for new players to shine is available with the graduation of three varsity veterans last year.

In mid-March, try-outs began on freezing and windy afternoons. Balls were landing with unpredictable spin, winds were blowing wild, and the grunts of hopeful tennis players could be heard—sometimes good, sometimes not. However, the chilly air was not enough to stop more than 40 candidates, seniors and freshman alike, from giving their best shot on the Center Courts in hopes of coming on board the Varsity cruise.

Last year, the Minutemen finished second in a tough Middlesex League, falling just short to archrivals Winchester. Lexington ended the year with a solid 17-3 record.

This season, senior #1 singles player Fabien Rabanal and #2 singles Owen Patrick will lead the Minutemen as the seasoned lettermen on the squad. Also, the #1 doubles team of Jon Behar and Dave Kong should provide added experience and oomph to the Lexington line-up. Mike Sciaretta and Josh Leopold will see some action.

"This season, Coach Mechem will have a 'poker trick' up his sleeve. Our opponent will just expect a pair, but we'll pull out a royal flush," said Rabanal, who is looking forward to the season.

So far, Lexington is 2-1 on the year, defeating both Wakefield and Watertown 5-0, but losing to Winchester, 5-0. The Sachems, the Burlington Red Devils, and the Reading Rockets should compete, along with Lexington, for the Middlesex League Title all year long. At the state level, Newton South, St. John's Prep, and Andover will be serious contenders.

After being very competitive for the last four years in a row, the '97 Lexington tennis team will remain one of the top teams in the Middlesex League. You can expect an exciting season ahead.